

Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS) Issue 8 • October 20, 2011

Dear colleagues,

We are excited to see that many of you have already registered for the December 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>ICCS meeting and will be joining us in sunny San Diego, CA. The meeting will focus on bridging the gap to higher education to ensure college and career readiness for all students.

Today's newsletter contains a spotlight on the implementation efforts of the West Virginia Department of Education. We'd like to extend a special thanks to Carla Williamson for sending in information about West Virginia's work—Go Mountaineers! The newsletter also contains an update on some of the recent developments in standards, assessment, and accountability, including new resources to support Common Core State Standards implementation.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas for future newsletters, and success stories from your agencies and classrooms by

contacting Margaret Millar, <a href="margaretm@ccsso.org">margaretm@ccsso.org</a>.

Thank you,
CCSSO's Common Core Implementation Team

#### Featured in this newsletter:

- ICCS Enrollment and December Meeting Registration
- Spotlight on West Virginia Implementation
- Georgia Leads State-wide Professional Development on the Common Core
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- CCSSO Announces College Readiness Partnership
- Assessment Consortia Update Webinar
- Alliance for Excellent Education Webinar on Accountability Waivers and ESEA Reauthorization
- Apply for Next Generation Learning Challenge Grants
- Congratulations! Common Core State Standards Adoption Wins Top Prize in Education Reform
- MetaMetrics Releases Policy Brief on Eliminating the Readiness Gap
- Pearson Hosts Free Webinar Series on the Common Core for Educators

### **ICCS Enrollment and December Meeting Registration**

- If you have not already done so, please don't forget to complete the ICCS enrollment form for 2011-2012.
- Registration has been sent for the December ICCS meeting in San Diego, CA on December 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Please be sure to book your flights early, although anyone who may be participating in CCSSO's INTASC meeting should wait to register for the December INTASC meeting prior to booking travel.

• For questions or concerns about enrollment or registration, please contact Renata Lewis, <u>renatal@ccsso.org</u>.

# Spotlight on West Virginia Common Core State Standards Implementation

Thank you to Carla Williamson of the West Virginia Department of Education for summarizing information about the mountain state's implementation to share with everyone in ICCS. To access Carla's notes, which include information about their implementation timeline, Kindergarten Academy, and pictures of actual classrooms, visit <a href="mailto:spaces.ccsso.org">spaces.ccsso.org</a> or download <a href="mailto:here">here</a>.

#### Georgia Leads State-wide Professional Development on the Common Core

On September 21, 2011, State Schools Superintendent John Barge and the Georgia Department of Education staff recorded a webinar to introduce and explain the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) to teachers across the state. The event was billed as a 'state-wide faculty meeting' and the information shared by Department staff served as professional development to educators across the state to learn in-depth about Georgia's implementation timeline and how the CCGPS will impact the students, educators, and taxpayers of Georgia. To access the webinar, click <a href="here">here</a>.

### AFT Journal Article by Dr. Wu on Common Core Mathematics Standards

The fall 2011 issue of the American Federation of Teacher's (AFT) quarterly research journal, the American Educator, featured an article by Dr. Hung-Hsi Wu on the mathematics standards. Dr. Wu is a professor emeritus of mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley and his article, "Phoenix Rising: Brining the Common Core State Mathematics Standards to Life," focuses on the potential of the standards, if implemented correctly, to dramatically alter and improve mathematics education in the United States. To access the article, visit spaces.ccsso.org or click <a href="here">here</a>.

#### **CCSSO Announces College Readiness Partnership**

CCSSO, The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), and the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) are pleased to announce that state leadership teams from Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Oregon, Tennessee, and Wisconsin will participate in the College Readiness Partnership.

- The Partnership is a collaborative to promote broad implementation of the Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English Language Arts, with a strong focus on those issues at the intersection of K-12 and higher education systems.
- The Partnership will compile effective practices and state models, and will translate the experiences of the state leadership teams to create a policy and process roadmap for CCSS implementation. CCSSO will share this work with the ICCS network as it develops.
- For more information, contact Kathleen Paliokas, kathleenp@ccsso.org.

### **Assessment Consortia Update Webinar**

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the K-12 Center at ETS and The Alliance for Excellent Education met with leaders of the Consortia to discuss their ongoing work. This session focused on the **transition supports** to be provided by each Consortium to assist states and districts as well as the **proposed revisions to the PARCC design**. Sue Gendron of **SMARTER Balanced** and Laura Slover of **PARCC** also responded to questions submitted by participants. Download an updated <u>guide to the Assessment Consortia</u> to review Consortia-approved summaries of their work and click <u>here</u> to watch a recording of the webinar.

# Alliance for Excellent Education Webinar on Accountability Waivers and ESEA Reauthorization

On Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Alliance for Excellent Education's president, Governor Bob Wise, hosted a federal education policy update webinar. The webinar covered the new accountability waiver as well as the Senate's movement on ESEA reauthorization. To access the recording of the webinar, click here.

# **Apply for Next Generation Learning Challenge Grants**

The Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC) is currently accepting Wave III applications for up to \$12 million in new grants. The NGLC is a partnership of EDUCAUSE, the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL), CCSSO, the League for Innovation in the Community College, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

- Grant applications should focus on whole-program or whole-institution breakthrough delivery models
- Applications will be accepted from both secondary and postsecondary, although the RFPs are slightly different
- The application deadlines are November 11<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup>, and June 8<sup>th</sup>.

• For more information, visit <a href="www.nextgenlearning.org">www.nextgenlearning.org</a>

### Congratulations! Common Core State Standards Adoption Wins Top Prize in Education Reform

On September 27, 2011, the members of the <u>Policy Innovators in Education (PIE) Network</u> recognized the adoption of Common Core State Standards throughout most of the as the leading education reform advance of the past year at the "Eddies!" awards ceremony in Seattle, Washington.

Members and other supporters of the network voted for the Common Core State Standards as the "Game Changer of the Year," the law or policy that voters felt did the most to advance reform.

## MetaMetrics Releases Policy Brief on Eliminating the Readiness Gap

Malbert Smith, President and Co-founder of MetaMetrics, released a policy brief on September 28, 2011 titled, "Fulfilling the Promise of the Common Core: Innovative Solutions to Eliminate the Readiness Gap in the 'New Normal." The brief highlights two promising cost effective strategies to implement the standards and promote readiness within tight financial and time parameters: personalized learning platforms and summer reading.

#### Pearson Hosts Free Webinar Series on the Common Core for Educators

Pearson is hosting a series of free webinars for educators to learn more about the Common Core State Standards and its applicability in the classroom. The webinars, to take place throughout September, October and November, include Bill McCallum, Sally Hampton, Linda Gojack, David Pearson, and others. To learn more, visit Pearson's <a href="Common Core Institute website">Common Core Institute website</a>.